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**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Cancelled).
2. (Cancelled).
3. (Cancelled).
4. (Currently Amended) The method of **Claim 20 46**, wherein the step of communicating comprises identifying the input locations to the finishing device in which the job segments are to be placed.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of **Claim 20 46**, wherein the step of receiving comprises receiving a job segment identifier for at least one job segment.
6. (Original) The method of **Claim 5**, further comprising using the job segment identifier to retrieve finishing job information relating to the job segment from a data source wherein a finishing job model pertaining to the finishing job is stored.
7. (Original) The method of **Claim 6**, further comprising using the job segment identifier to retrieve finishing job information for all job segments of the finishing job.
8. (Original) The method of **Claim 6**, further comprising extracting status information relating to a plurality of job segments identified in the job model.

9. (Original) The method of **Claim 8**, further comprising notifying an operator if at least one job segment is not in a status ready for finishing.

10. (Original) The method of **Claim 5**, wherein the step of receiving further comprises receiving the job segment identifier from a virtual finishing job ticket reader.

11. (Original) The method of **Claim 5**, wherein the step of receiving further comprises receiving a job segment identifier entered by a human operator.

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Cancelled).

14. (Currently Amended) The method of **Claim 20-46**, further comprising, in response to determining that the identified device is not currently available, communicating issuing commands to program the availability of the identified device.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of **Claim 20-46**, further comprising, in response to determining that the identified device is not currently available, notifying human operators that the identified device is not available.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) The method of **Claim 20-46**, further comprising creating different job segments in order to conform to the amended job model.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of **Claim 20-46**, wherein the step of receiving information identifying at least one finishing device further comprises identifying finishing devices to be used during a portion of the finishing job wherein other devices remain unidentified for at least one finishing operation to occur after performance by the identified devices.

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Currently Amended) The In a finishing system having at least one finishing device that is controlled separately from production equipment and that is to be used during a finishing job, a method for performing a finishing job process with a finishing job coordinator, comprising:

a) electronically receiving finishing job description information before commencement of a printing job, including information descriptive of the job, identification of job segments of the job, and identifying at least one finishing device to be used in performance of the finishing job;

b) determining whether the identified finishing device is available for performance of the finishing job;

c) in response to determining that the identified device is not currently available, amending the job model to select a different thread for finishing of the job;

d) communicating programming data for programming and configuring device attributes of at least one finishing device for implementation of the finishing job by automatically programming the finishing device over a communications network; ~~of Claim 16~~ further comprising and,

e) programming at least one finishing device in adaptation to the capability and constraint attributes of a second finishing device.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of **Claim 20 16**, wherein the step of communicating comprises communicating using the Modular Feeding and Finishing Architecture protocol.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of **Claim 20 16**, further comprising:

a) receiving data that job segments of the job have been placed in at least one input location of the finishing device; and

b) after receiving data that the job segments have been placed in such input location, issuing instructions for the commencement of operation by the finishing

device.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of **Claim 20 16**, further comprising providing the data for tracking the finishing job.

24. (Original) The method of **Claim 23**, wherein the step of tracking comprises using a sheet counting feature of at least one finishing device to count sheets.

25. (Original) The method of **Claim 23**, wherein the at least one job segment is identifiable by a job segment identifier and wherein the step of tracking comprises tracking the job segment by tracking its job segment identifier as such job segment identifier moves through the finishing job.

26. (Original) The method of **Claim 23**, wherein the step of tracking further comprises monitoring the condition of at least one finishing device used in the performance of the job.

27. (Currently Amended) The In a finishing system having at least one finishing device that is controlled separately from production equipment and that is to be used during a finishing job, a method of performing a finishing job process with a finishing job coordinator, comprising:

a) electronically receiving finishing job description information before commencement of a printing job, including information descriptive of the job, identification of job segments of the job, and identifying at least one finishing device to be used in performance of the finishing job;

b) determining whether the identified finishing device is available for performance of the finishing job;

c) In response to determining that the identified device is not currently available, amending the job model to select a different thread for finishing of the job;

d) communicating programming data for programming and configuring device attributes of at least one finishing device for implementation of the finishing job by

automatically programming the finishing device over a communications network; and,  
~~Claim 26, further comprising,~~

e) \_\_\_\_\_ in response to a tracked condition of at least one finishing machine,  
issuing commands to adjust performance conditions of at least one other finishing device.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of **Claim 27 23**, further comprising, in  
response to a pause in performance of at least one finishing device, issuing commands to  
pause at least one other finishing device.

29. (Original) The method of **Claim 28**, wherein the pause in performance is  
caused by the jamming of workpieces within the finishing device.

30. (Original) The method of **Claim 28**, further comprising issuing restart  
commands after the cause of the pause has been cured.

31. (Original) The method of **Claim 23**, further comprising sending tracking  
data for a completed job to a central database of the finishing system.

32. (Cancelled).

33. (Cancelled).

34. (Cancelled).